

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed December 22, 2003 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1-23 were pending in the application. Claim 23 has been amended and no claims have been cancelled or newly added. Therefore, claims 1-23 are pending in the application and are submitted for reconsideration.

Applicants note that claim 23 has been amended to better conform to current U.S. claim drafting practice and not change the scope of the claim in any way.

FIG. 2 have been amended to address the issues raised in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. A formal drawing Replacement Sheet for these figures are attached hereto. With respect to the objection to Fig. 1, applicants note that Fig. 1 represents the current invention. For example, the code cache 13 disclosed in Fig. 1 corresponds to the claimed invention and does not belong in the prior art.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 8-16, and 18-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent application publication no. 2001-0013087 to Ronstrom (hereafter "Ronstrom"), in view of U.S. patent 6,351,844 to Bala (hereafter "Bala"). Claims 5, 7, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ronstrom, in view of Bala, and in further view of U.S. patent 6,330,556 to Chilimbi et al. (hereafter "Chilimbi"). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ronstrom, in view Bala, and in further view of U.S. patent 5,675,790 to Walls (hereafter "Walls"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

**Ronstrom is not prior art to the pending claims**

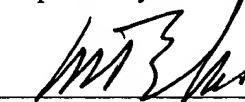
Ronstrom has a filing date of December 19, 2000 which is later than the December 12, 2000 filing date of the instant application. Accordingly, Ronstrom is not prior art to the pending claims and is removed as a reference. Since Ronstrom is the primary reference applied to all of the pending claims, all of the pending claims are now allowable over the applied prior art.

Bala removed as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §103(c)

Bala and the present application, at the time the present invention was made, owned or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same owner, Hewlett Packard Co. as evidenced by the assignment filed in the instant application and the assignee information on the face of the Bala patent. Accordingly, Bala is removed as a reference for obviousness purposes under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(c)

In view of the above, applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance. An indication of the same is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding the application, or if an examiner's amendment would facilitate the allowance of one or more of the claims, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attached: Formal drawing Replacement Sheet for FIG. 2